

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:DCHARR:JCM

APPROVED BY EA:RHMILLER

D/HA/PW:FSIEVERTS

SCS:MACKENBOM

VO:LLDEWITT

EA/TB:JAKLEMSTINE

EA/VLC:TMCARNEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL ISFAHAN

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS STATE 195259

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CVIS, VN, VS, IR

SUBJECT: RELATIVES OF AMERICANS IN VIET-NAM

REF: ISFAHAN 0026

1. ON AUGUST 1, A TOTAL 50 AMERICANS AND ACCOMPANYING DEPENDENTS WERE ALLOWED TO LEAVE VIET-NAM FOR BANGKOK ON FLIGHT CHARTERED BY UNHCR, AT REQUEST OF VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES. NONE OF RELATIVES LISTED ON REFTEL WERE ON THIS FLIGHT. EXIT OF REMAINING AMERICANS AND RELATIVES OF AMERICANS STILL IS CONTROLLED BY VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES, AND WE HAVE NO INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER THEY WILL REQUEST ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS IN NEAR FUTURE. WE HOPE, OF COURSE, THAT VIETNAMESE WILL MOVE RAPIDLY TO RESOLVE THIS HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM, WHICH CONCERNS A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF AMERICAN CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS.

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2. TO DATE, VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES HAVE ALLOWED VIETNAMESE NATIONALS TO DEPART SAIGON FOR TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES ONLY AS THEY ACCOMPANY AMERICAN CITIZEN RELATIVES WHO ARE PERMITTED TO EXIT VIET-NAM. WE HAVE NO INDICATIONS WHAT FUTURE POLICY OF VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT WILL BE TOWARDS EMIGRATION OF VIETNAMESE CITIZENS.

3. WE PRESUME THAT AMCITS IN IRAN HAVE PROVIDED RED CROSS WITH DATA ON FAMILIES. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE THE MOST HOPEFUL CHANNEL FOR FUTURE RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE, AND ALL DOCUMENTATION SHOULD BE PROVIDED ICRC, IF THIS HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN DONE.

4. SHOULD VIETNAMESE RELATIVES OF AMCITS BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE VIET-NAM, PROBABLE ROUTES WOULD BE SAIGON TO BANGKOK, PRINCIPALS MAY WISH TO REQUEST INS TO PROVIDE NOTIFICATION OF VISA PETITION APPROVALS TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK, TO EXPEDITE VISA ISSUANCE IF AND WHEN FAMILY MEMBERS ARE PERMITTED TO LEAVE VIET-NAM. HABIB

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